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MOSCOW FIXES

to Eclipse U. S. in Weaponry

By RAY CROMLEY

TESTIMONY given by Swedish Soviet agent Col. Stig Wennerstroem gives an insight into long-range Russian military strategy and the risks the Reds are willing to take.

A decade ago, the Russians saw the United States pushing ahead with great numbers of intercontinental bombers armed with large nuclear bombs. They decided there was no point in attempting to keep up. Instead, they chose to make a calculated gamble.

REMAIN SMALL

They let their intercontinental bomber force remain small. Thus they deliberately took the risk of committing themselves to being much weaker than their chief enemy, the United States, in strategic air power for at least a decade.

While leaving themselves partially naked strategically in the 1950s, they put their funds into what then was risky research on 5000-mile missiles in the belief that by the 1960s they would leapfrog past us with nuclear-tipped ICBMs that the U. S. could not match.

To realize what a long-shot gamble this decision was, it must be recalled that, at the time, no one had ever produced intercontinental missiles. The Russians had no assurance they could make practical nuclear warheads. (At that time U. S. experts had decided the concept wasn't practical militarily).

BLUFF

Col. Wennerstroem's testimony indicates the Russians calculated they could bluff the United States as to their might until the leapfrog gamble succeeded and they had missile superiority.

The Russians may now be producing a 1964 version of that same gamble.

Moscow's military-scientific experts know as well as our Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara that the United States is well ahead in developing long-range ballistic missiles. It appears that the Soviet Union is not

attempting to catch up in this particular race.

If there is any parallel with the 1950s, the Soviet Union will let the United States win this Minuteman-Polaris sweepstakes without real contest.

Instead, Moscow will — in the decade ahead — take a long-shot research gamble on developing radical new types of strategic military weapons aimed at putting the Soviet Union ahead of the United States in the mid-1970s.

EVIDENCE

There is considerable evidence that this is exactly what the Russians are doing.

Some U. S. military scientists, worried by this development, are pushing for expanded U. S. research in a wide array of way-out projects — radical new concepts for missile defense, missiles capable of zigging or zagging to evade enemy anti-missile system, planes able to operate both in the atmosphere and in space, missiles that could travel with two or three times the speed of today's ICBMs, multible warhead ICBMs that would shoot off in different directions and exploration of completely new ways in which to immobilize or destroy the enemy or his weapons either by some form of chemicals, electromagnetic force or atomic particles.